



JOHNSON & WALES
UNIVERSITY

PROVIDENCE CAMPUS

Marie Bernardo-Sousa, LP.D. '92
President, Providence Campus

Memo

To Providence Campus Community

From Marie Bernardo-Sousa, LP.D. '92

Date March 16, 2022

Re **Lifting our Mask Mandate on Campus**

For those of you who enjoyed some time off for spring break, welcome back. I hope you are looking forward to spring as much as I am, and I'd like to thank you for all of your cooperation as we continue to maintain a healthy campus.

I am incredibly pleased to share with you that upon everyone's return to campus this week, the university tested more than 650 members of our Wildcat Community for COVID-19, and there were **zero positive cases**. This is great news; we have remained vigilant and upheld all protocols that have fostered a healthy environment, and it is important that we continue to do so.

With that said, the university has made the decision that it is an appropriate time to amend some of our protocols. As we see COVID-19 cases across the country steadily decline and as more of our population becomes fully vaccinated, the university has decided that **as of Friday, March 18, mask-wearing, regardless of an individual's vaccination status, will be optional on our campus and will no longer be required inside or outside buildings**. *Please be advised that if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask (a KN95 mask is recommended) on campus, you are supported in doing so.* We also encourage all students, faculty and staff to continue carrying a mask on you in case you find yourself in a crowded environment or a situation in which you prefer to use a mask. *Please note: the university will still require masks on Wildcat Wheels transportation and in Health Services offices.* The JWU COVID-19 website will be updated with this new information.

At this time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintains that vaccines are still the best public health measure to protect people from COVID-19, slow transmission, and reduce the likelihood of new variants emerging. Right now, about 95 percent of our Providence campus population is fully vaccinated. Boosters are still an important part of this process and are strongly encouraged as you are eligible for them.

It is important to continue practicing safe measures: if you are ill, please stay home and contact your healthcare provider – and please continue to wash your hands often. We encourage you to complete the daily COVID-19 screening questionnaire via the JWU mobile app or [jwuLink](#), and unvaccinated individuals will still be required to participate in weekly testing inside the Delaney Gym on the Harborside Campus.

Thank you so much for your care and cooperation, which continue to power our campus. I look forward to what's left of our spring semester and a truly wonderful commencement celebration at the end of the academic year.